



THE VOICE

A Monthly Publication from Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Akron, OH
March 2025 | Volume 62: Issue 3

DEAR PARISH FAMILY,

The month of March brings the beginning of Great Lent on Clean Monday, March 3rd. In our recent adult education series, "A Toolkit for Spiritual Growth," we emphasized that dietary fasting as is appropriate for each of us, prayer, and alms giving are all a part of this journey.

The next 40 days and one week will offer us opportunities to **COME TO CHURCH** at least four times every week. When we're not at church, hopefully we all remember to pray a little more in front of our Icons. Finally, our entire parish family is invited to bring shelf, stable food products for our friends and neighbors at Stewart's Caring Place.

There is no shortage of opportunities to embrace Lent at The Annunciation. Imagine if we all make a commitment to do one more thing during the Fast this year than we did last year.

Whatever level we participate, may we all have a blessed fast!

See you at Church.

Fr. Dean

LOADS OF LOVE: A LAUNDRY LOVE MINISTRY

Second Monday of Every Month
from 5-6:30 pm



2025
MARCH 10 APRIL 14

We will help pay for washing, drying, and detergent.

LIMITED:

Two Washers per person/
Four Washers per family.

LOCATION:

1713 W. Exchange Street
Akron, Ohio

DIRECTORY

Fr. Dean Kokanos
Presiding Priest

Fr. Nick Manuel
Assistant Priest

Dn. Mark Studebaker
Deacon

Paula Chotlos
Office Manager

Chad Hay
Neochoros & Custodian

Steve Hadgis
Choir Director

THE ANNUNCIATION
129 S. Union Street
Akron, OH 44304
330-434-0000

PARISH COUNCIL

COUNCIL OFFICERS

John Matheos
President

Steve Parianos
Vice President

Christopher Morris
Secretary

Maria Detorakis
Treasurer

Christine Salem
Past President

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Michael Detorakis

Elena Economou-Zwisler

Bill Farmakidis

Karen Horattas

Christina Manousos

Mary O'Connor

Diane Popovich

Nick Stavrakis

Maria Williams

OUTREACH

GOOD SAMARITANS

PREP - DISTRIBUTION - TABLE

Tuesday
March 11, 5pm

**Monthly
PREP**

Wednesday
March 12, 7:30am

**Monthly
DISTRIBUTION**

Thursday
March 20

TABLE

Tuesday
March 25

**MEAL PREP
AND SERVE**
3-6:30pm



**Meal PREP
AND SERVE**
3-6:30pm

March 25: Groceries & Clothes Available

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES January 2024

Our parish is buzzing with a LOT of projects and events as you see in this issue.

This month, our Parish Council minutes will be printed and placed on the table outside of the Philoptochos room and will be emailed to our stewards. Thanks for understanding.

ANNUNCIATION SUNDAY SCHOOL NICOLE PAPAS & ELYSE DECKARD, CO DIRECTORS

Hello, Sunday School Families!

This month begins Great Lent, and we will celebrate the Sunday of Orthodoxy on March 9th. Please have your child **BRING AN ICON** to carry in our annual procession.

This year we are once again supporting **STEWART'S CARING PLACE: CANCER WELLNESS CENTER** in Fairlawn for our Lenten Project. This project will run through Pascha on April 20th. Please bring the following non-perishable items to the Atrium anytime during Lent.

2/3 yr olds	rice, pasta, quinoa, pasta sauce
Pre-K & Kindergarten	oatmeal, cereal, granola bars, nut or trail mixes
1st/2nd	canned soup, canned vegetables
3rd/4th	black beans, chickpeas, lentils, canned or pouched chicken and tuna
5th/6th	nut butters, jelly, fruit preserves, canned or jarred fruit
7th/8th	popcorn, chips
High School	macaroni and cheese, Hamburger Helper, ramen noodles

Stewart's Caring Place **FOOD DRIVE**



GOOD SAMARITANS

Thank you to everyone in our community for showing God's love through your support of the Good Samaritan's ministries in 2024! With your help, we provided 5,414 hot meals (up 93% from 2023) and grocery loads to 2,526 families (up 18% from 2023). We are grateful for your time, talent, and treasure.

The addition of events in 2024 played a key role in increasing our services. We introduced a second monthly hot meal event in partnership with GYRO Thursdays, serving ~50 neighbors, alongside our main monthly event serving 100+ neighbors. Both hot meals will include food pantries in 2025!

We also revamped our Wednesday morning grocery distribution to offer a full-choice shopping experience in our gym, reducing food waste and best serving our clients. Thanks to all who helped us achieve a stable full-choice model last fall!

With more events on our calendar, we need your continued support. Volunteer positions are crucial to ensure clients are well-cared for and facilities are cleaned timely. The new pantry format is more inviting to volunteers, with most jobs indoors and requiring minimal lifting.

For more information, please reach out to Fr. Dean, Cami or Jacob Brausch (pantry), or John or Jen Matheos (hot meal). Email us at goodsamaritans@annunciationakron.org.

Lent at the Annunciation

Beginning Clean Monday, March 3

Every Monday

Great Compline 5:30 PM

Every Wednesday (except March 12)

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 5:30 PM

Followed by Free Potluck Dinner

Every Friday

Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts 9:00 AM

Salutations to the Mother of God 6:30 PM

And, of course, **Every Sunday**

Matins 8:20 AM, Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

GREEK SCHOOL

GREEK

INDEPENDENCE DAY



GREEK SCHOOL PROGRAM

SUNDAY
03.16.25

11:45AM
AFTER COFFEE HOUR

CHURCH
HALL

Coffee hour hosted by
Annunciation Akron Greek School



PRESENTED BY THE STUDENTS AT AKRON ANNUNCIATION GREEK SCHOOL

Feast of the Annunciation/ Greek Independence Day

LUNCHEON

Sunday, March 23

immediately following Divine Liturgy

**Net proceeds to benefit the
Annunciation Scholarship Fund.**

**Food, information, entertainment
& tickets to be sold after Liturgy
during the month of March.**

129 South Union Street
Akron, OH 44304



QUILTING



Please consider helping Philoptochos make quilts for new infants in our parish as well as hospitals and charitable groups in Akron and the surrounding area.

Are you interested but don't quilt? No worries! Beginners are welcome! We can teach you what you need to know!

Do you knit or crochet? We are planning to knit and crochet hats, scarves and cold weather items for our cold weather box and for those in need. Please let us know you are interested and we will schedule a group knitting or crochet session or you can make at home and bring in.

Interested but worried how this will fit in your schedule? We currently meet during the day but are interested in adding weekend and evening sessions. Please let us know you are interested and when you might be available.

Our next session is Tuesday, March 18 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. in the Media Room.

Please contact Paige Nicholas at paigenicholas99@gmail.com or at 330-819-3177 if you are interested or have any questions.

OCW Lenten Retreat

Sarah Byrne-Martelli

Sorrow Into Joy: Encountering Christ in our Paschal Lives

Dr Byrne-Martelli is an Orthodox Christian board-certified chaplain and bereavement counselor.

Saturday, March 29, 2025

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
129 S. Union Street, Akron, OH 44304

9:30am-3:00pm

\$20 Includes Continental Breakfast and Luncheon
Make checks payable to OCW and remit to: Susan Evanoff

404 – 19th Street NE, Massillon, Ohio 44646
RSVP by Friday, March 21, 2025

ALL ARE WELCOME

Her recent book, Memory Eternal: Living with Grief as Orthodox Christians, published in 2022.

For more information call:
Sandy Menhorn 330-354-7792 or
Nancy Studebaker 330-807-7640

MARCH 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>ANNUNCIATION PHILOPTOCHOS SPRING BAKE SALE</p> <p>APRIL 9 & 10</p>						<p>1</p> <p>830am Matins 930am Liturgy SATURDAY of the SOULS HOPE/JOY Lenten Mini Retreat 1030am Philoptochos Board</p>
2 CHEESEFARE SUNDAY	3 CLEAN MONDAY LENT BEGINS	4	5	6	7	8
820am Matins 930am Liturgy	9am Philoptochos Baking 5:30pm Great Compline 7pm Catechism	11am Rotary Club 530pm Parish Council 7pm OCF	NO Gyro Prep 530pm Presanctified Liturgy 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON	9am Presanctified Liturgy 630pm Salutations	830am Matins 930am Liturgy SATURDAY of the SOULS
9	10	11	12	13	14 YAL Retreat	15 YAL Retreat
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 1030am St. Patrick's Day Coffee Hour 11am Lenten Lecture Week 1 5pm Sunday of Orthodoxy @ Presentation of our Lord	9am Philoptochos Baking 5pm Loads of Love 5:30pm Great Compline 7pm Catechism	11am Rotary Club 6pm Philoptochos General Meeting 5pm Good Samaritans PREP	NO Gyro Prep 530pm Greek School Prep 630pm Choir Rehearsal 730am Good Samaritans Distribution	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON	9am Presanctified Liturgy 5pm JOY Night 630pm Salutations	VOICE ARTICLES DUE
16 YAL Retreat	17	18	19	20	21	22 Weekend of Service
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 1030am Oratorical Festival 11am Lenten Lecture Week 2 1115am Greek School Pageant 430pm GOYA Fireside Chat 5pm Lenten Vespers @ St. Thomas	9am Philoptochos Baking 5:30pm Great Compline 630pm COCA - St Thomas 7pm Catechism	930am Quilting 11am Rotary Club 6pm Men's Club 7pm OCF	NO Gyro Prep 530pm Presanctified Liturgy 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON 3:30pm Good Samaritans TABLE	9am Presanctified Liturgy 630pm Salutations	
23 Weekend of Service	24	25 PAPA GYRO DAY	26	27	28	29
820am Matins 930am Liturgy Memorial Service ELPLS members Nikki Bober - 1yr Parish Graduates and Scholarship Luncheon 5pm Lenten Vespers @ St. Elia	9am Philoptochos Baking 5:30pm Great Vespers 7pm Catechism	830am Matins 930am Liturgy 11am Rotary Club 3:30pm Good Samaritans TABLE	NO Gyro Prep 530pm Presanctified Liturgy 630pm Choir Rehearsal	11am-2pm GYRO LUNCHEON	9am Presanctified Liturgy 630pm Salutations	RETREAT 9:30am-3pm Orthodox Christian Women
30	31	 <p>SAVE THE DATE</p> <p>VCS is August 4-8, kids age 4-12, 9 am to noon.</p> <p>Registration is open. Register at http://www.annunciationakron.org/vcs</p>				
820am Matins 930am Liturgy 11am Lenten Lecture Week 3 5pm Lenten Vespers @ St. George	5:30pm Great Vespers 7pm Catechism					

GYRO LUNCHEON

2024 GYRO FINANCIAL REPORT

Gyro Luncheon contributions

\$26,500 Annunciation Operating Fund

\$500 Festival

\$100 Building Fund

\$27,100 Total donations to church projects

*Many thanks to our loyal volunteers
who give their time and energy to serve
their church community.*

Respectfully submitted, GYRO Volunteers

AKRON ANNUNCIATION YOUTH

March 14 - 6pm
JOY Night
at Annunciation Church

March 16
4:30pm - 6:30pm
GOYA Fireside Chat
at the Manos home

GRADUATES DINNER 2025

SAVE THE DATE - June 1, 2025

Our Annunciation parish honors and celebrates our graduates yearly. We also award scholarships to those who are furthering their education.

1 WE NEED GRADUATES' NAMES!

If you have a student who will be graduating high school, college, or advanced studies, we need their names to recognize them in the program booklet.

Please contact Shelly Partis - 330-607-7973 or Chris Partis - 330-606-5467 to have your graduate honored at the year's Graduates Dinner.

2 SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications for Annunciation, AHEPA, and other parish scholarships are available beginning in early March. Deadlines will be posted.

Watch for more information in the weekly church bulletins and via OneCall.



The Greek Orthodox
Metropolis of Pittsburgh
Philoptochos Society

2025 Daffodil Luncheon

Saturday, April 5, 2025 ~ 11am

Holy Trinity Pittsburgh
Grand Room
985 Providence Boulevard
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Question's?
Diamond Marcum
fdmarcum@aol.com
330-256-8006



MARCH 2025
Lenten Break

APRIL 28
LUNCHEON
12:00 noon

AXIOS!

DON HUSAT

Many of our fellow parishioners are involved in charitable work in our communities in addition to devoting their time and talents to our Annunciation parish. This month we are highlighting a parishioner who exemplifies that dedication.

Don Husat was first chrismated into our church by Father George Bartz back in 1973. Don began his service to our parish by serving two terms on Parish Council in the late 1980s. He followed that up by joining the Graduates Dinner Committee and went on to chair that event for five years. Along with his wife Vi (Vacelia), the couple worked with the Silent Auction at our Festival and has continued to do that to this day, including serving as chair of the Festival Silent Auction for a number of years.

A dedicated historian and writer, Don took on the task of researching and writing the history of our Annunciation parish for the 100th Anniversary Album in 2016. He is now in the process of organizing and establishing archives of all available information about the history of our Annunciation parish, which will be housed in our church building to preserve that history for future generations.

Don has also devoted his energies to serve his hometown of Hudson, Ohio. He and two other officers of the Hudson Heritage Association formed a foundation in 2019 to save and restore the badly neglected Baldwin-Buss House, built on Hudson's Village Green in 1825. The foundation raised \$1.25 million in eight months and the Baldwin-Buss House, now restored to its former glory, had its grand opening this past October.

We say **"AXIOS"** to Don Husat for his exemplary devotion to serving both his church and his community,



129 South Union Street
Akron, Ohio 44304

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VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL - AUGUST 4-8 - SIGN UP NOW